

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claim 7 has been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the noted allowability of claim 8. Claim 8 will be in condition for allowance upon being amended to independent form.

II. OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 7 AND 8

The Examiner objects to claims 7 and 8 on the basis that the recitation “a cylinder holding member” in line 3 of claim 7 is redundant with the language at line 19 of claim 2 as amended.

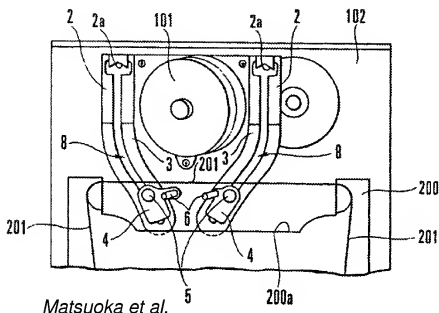
In response, applicants have amended claim 7 herein to eliminate any such redundancy. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 5 AND 7 UNDER 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) based on *Matsuoka et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner refers to *Matsuoka et al.* as teaching guide members 2 with grooves 8 (citing, e.g., Figs. 1, 2, 11 and 12). The Examiner argues that the guide members 2 are formed integrally with the base of a rotary cylinder holding member (citing Col. 2, Ins. 58-60, and Col. 8, Ins. 1-2).

FIG. 1 (PRIOR ART)



Referring to Fig. 1 of *Matsuoka et al.* (reproduced above), positioning members 2 do in fact include grooves or slots 8 as noted by the Examiner. Moreover, *Matsuoka et al.* does teach that the positioning members 2 are formed integrally with the rotary drum base. (Col. 8, Ins. 1-4).

That being said, *Matsuoka et al.* does not teach or suggest each and every feature of claims 1-3, 5 and 7.

Referring initially to claim 2 of the present application, the tape pull-out member is located in a cassette mountable state, and, while moving toward a tape pull-out completion position, pulls out the tape from the tape cassette and winds the tape around the rotatable head cylinder so as to place the magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus in a tape pull-out completion state. The cassette mountable state is a state of the magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus in which the tape cassette can be mounted thereon. The tape pull-out completion state is a state of the apparatus in

which the tape is pulled out from the tape cassette and wound around the rotatable head cylinder such that the tape is capable of running.

Claim 2 recites that the guide member guides the tape pull-out member such that the pull-out member is reciprocally movable between the opening in the tape cassette and the tape pull-out completion position. Thus, the guide member for guiding the tape pull-out member between the opening in the tape cassette and the tape pull-out completion position is integrally formed with the cylinder holding member.

The positioning member 2 in *Matsuoka et al.* does not correspond to such guide member as recited in claim 2. While the positioning member 2 may be formed integrally with the rotary drum base as previously acknowledged, the positioning member 2 in *Matsuoka et al.* does not serve as a guide member between the opening in the tape cassette and the tape pull-out completion position. Rather, *Matsuoka et al.* teaches that the positioning member 2 is located only proximate the tape pull-out completion position as shown in Fig. 1 reproduced above.

The majority of the path between the opening in the tape cassette and the tape pull-out completion position in *Matsuoka et al.* is made up primarily by guide member 3. However, Matsuoka et al. does not teach or suggest that the guide member 3 is formed integrally with the rotary drum base. *Matsuoka et al.* teaches that the guide member 3 must be separately secured to the main chassis 102. (Col. 6, Ins. 1-7).

Consequently, the guide member 3 in *Matsuoka et al.*, whether alone or in combination with the positioning member 2, does not constitute a guide member between the opening in the tape cassette and the tape pull-out completion position that is formed integrally with the cylinder holding member as recited in claim 2.

Similar arguments apply with respect to claims 1 and 3. Claim 1 recites "a tape pull-out member is engaged with a groove formed in the guide member; the tape pull-out member is movable between a first position and a second position along the groove; ... [and] the rotatable head cylinder is provided on a cylinder holding member integrally

formed with the guide member". Claim 3 recites "a guide member for guiding the tape pull-out member such that the tape pull-out member is reciprocally moveable between the opening in the tape cassette and the tape pull-out completion position, ... the cylinder holding member being integrally formed with the guide member".

As previously noted, *Matsuoka et al.* calls for guide member 3, which is not taught to be integral with the cylinder holding member, in order to guide the tape pull-out member.

For at least the above reasons, applicants respectfully submit that *Matsuoka et al.* does not anticipate claims 1-3, 5 and 7. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4 AND 6 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Matsuoka et al.* and *Official Notice*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 4 and 6 each depend from claim 3 either directly or indirectly. Consequently, claims 4 and 6 may be distinguished over *Matsuoka et al.* for at least the same reasons discussed above in relation to claim 3. *Official Notice* does not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies.

V. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 1-8 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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